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TODAY'S VERSE

Psalm 117:1 & 2 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD.

Meet Daisy Duke



Daisy Duke is a senior 7 year old female American Pit Bull Terrier mix that has been at AWL since 5/26/2023. Daisy Duke is a medium size cutie that enjoys going for walks and frolicking in a fenced yard! Daisy Duke is people/pet selective. A meet and greet is required to make sure she's found her perfect match. Daisy Duke is looking for her best friend. Could that be you? Daisy Duke is available for adoption, to foster, or just simply going out for walks. (with signed waiver & 18 yrs. or older). AWL is open Monday - Friday from 12:15p-5p and Saturday's from 9:30a-3p. Come snuggle cats in one of the community cat rooms, walk dogs, or lend a helping hand!

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Boomer Bits

Ask Rusty – If My Wife Claims Now, Will It Hurt My Social Security Amount?



ASK Rusty Social Security Advisor

Social Security Matters

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Dear Rusty: I am 69 years old, and my wife turned 70 early this year. I am still working full time. My wife is not working, but she got a letter from Social Security saying she should take her Social Security as soon as possible.

My question is: since my wife has reached her full retirement age, can she take her SS without it affecting mine when I claim? I plan to work at least another year, depending on how the economy goes (I may have to work longer if it doesn't get better). I have IRAs and a 401k to pull from when I retire.

Signed: Anxious Husband

Dear Anxious: The reason your wife received a letter from Social Security (SS) suggesting she claims now is because her benefit reached maximum some time ago at age 70. Thus, there is no reason for her to wait beyond age 70 to claim. By delaying past age 70 your wife is losing money so she should apply as soon as possible. I suggest your wife call Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 (or your local office) right away to request an appointment to apply for her benefits and she should be sure to request six months of

See RUSTY Page A3

What Foot and Ankle Issues Warrant a Doctor's Visit

(StatePoint) Most people have a foot or ankle problem at one time or another. So how do you know when to seek help? Many symptoms—even those you can tolerate—require the professional attention of a foot and ankle surgeon to keep the underlying condition from worsening. According to Danielle Butto, DPM, FACFAS, a board-certified foot and ankle surgeon

See FOOT Page A3

Act Locally During Global Volunteer Month

(StatePoint) April is Global Volunteer Month, a time to celebrate volunteers and inspire volunteerism in communities large and small. Volunteerism is on the decline, according to research from AmeriCorps and the U.S. Census Bureau. And what's more, Points of Light, a global

See ACT Page A3

Ethel May and Iva, two beauts



KAREN ZACH Around The County

Ethel May Goff was the oldest of the James Hugh and Annie Jones Goff family, born May 15, 1880. She was just a few days old in the 1880 census with her father 21 and mother just 17.

The Goffs were married about a year before, on 10 July 1879 right here in Montgomery County. Iva LaClare was born the first week of June in 1884 (couple of sources say the 1st; couple say the 5th) also in MoCo. I love the picture (thanks so very much to Dan Jolley, Iva being his direct ancestor) and the girls were in high fashion with their ties and puffy sleeves. Wonder if all the family had that wavy, curly hair? Allen (Al) Champion took the photograph and was a photographer here from 1880-1900. He sold his business in 1901. He went on to Greensburg where he was also a photographer.

Although it is unknown when the picture was taken, the girls look to be about 17 and 13, making it the late 1890s, and sure her mother probably wanted them, she being sick with consumption. The last child was Dewey born May 1898. So, think the time frame is good. Why there were only the two not sure, though, as they had several other children. Perhaps it was an engagement picture or one to say, look at my pretty girls? Perhaps they had a couple of the other kids closer together and photographed but those haven't surfaced. Whatever the case may be, read on and you will learn about these two beauties!

Ethel married early at Browns Valley 23 April 1899 to Frank Wiley Hester, son of Isaiah and Mary (Eads) Hester. She was well loved and lived to be 85, Frank dying previously at 76. They were farmers near Russellville. Although, they had no children of their own, she raised her youngest brother, Dewey. Other siblings and nieces and nephews were also close to her. They are buried in the Russellville Cemetery side by side.

See KAREN Page A4

TODAY'S HEALTH TIP

Women aged 65 years or older should have a bone density screening.

Today's health tip was brought to you by Dr. John Roberts. Be sure to catch his column each week in The Paper and online at www.thepaper24-7.com



THREE THINGS You Should Know

- 1 It sure looks like someone set fire to a waterfall in California's Yosemite National Park. But it's a trick the sun plays on visitors each year at this time. Photographer Jay Huang says he's been trying to capture what he calls the Yosemite's Horsetail Fall "firefall effect" over the years but this time he got it just right on video "in the last 30 minutes of sunset without any obstruction from clouds."
- 2 Die-hard movie buffs are celebrating a flick that was just released—for a second time. It made its first debut just about a hundred years ago featuring that femme fatale of the day, Miss Clara Bow. The film, The Pill Pounder, made its debut in 1923 and then was lost. Gary Huggins of Kansas City found it recently at an antique film fest in Omaha, NE when he purchased a stack of oldies for twenty bucks. He told reporters that "a distributor that had been in Omaha for decades had gone out of business a while ago and this auction house had some of their films. It was the best 20 dollars I've ever invested, for sure."
- 3 It took a while, but Fred Allen Smalls finally got his diploma from the Georgetown County High School in the town of Plantersville. He missed graduation when he moved to Washington, DC to help support his family. Born on February 5, 1918, he recently turned 106 years of age and he is still going strong. Tamara Baker, a professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, told NBC News that "it's the positive social networks — the ones that are going to influence you, or get behind you to go to the doctor, to do the exercise, to eating properly. Even in some of the more impoverished neighborhoods, if you have that positive social network, that can go a long way."

TODAY'S QUOTE

"In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside 24 hours."
Mark Twain

TODAY'S JOKE

What month of the year is shortest?
Sorry, it's not February. It's May. There's only three letters.

THE MONTGOMERY MINUTE

Total Eclipse of Art – a 5K Fun Run that takes place just two days before the big eclipse traverses across the great Hoosier state – is a local event from the good folks at Athens Arts. It's set to take off from Christ Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 6 at 9 a.m. (check in begins at 8). In fact, early registration is going on now and continues through March 15. It's a way to guarantee you get a T-shirt! After that, general registration is ongoing through March 27 – and the day of the race you can register, but it's cash only. The cost for those 15 and older is \$20, ages 6-14 is \$15 and under 6 is free. For more information, contact Athens Arts. You can stop by on Thursdays and Fridays between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or call (765) 362-7455 and leave a voice message.



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Cleaner, Safer Drinking Water



MARK GENDA
Guest Columnist

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Indiana is estimated to have over 265,000 customer-owned lead water lines still in operation. Lead lines, which connect a home or business to a water main, along with brass and bronze faucets are known to be the most significant source of lead in tap water as the materials corrode over time.

to work with Indiana property owners to replace lead water service lines at no direct cost to the customer. Utility companies must first get approval from the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission and establish a replacement plan before any work begins, and property owners must be notified of any lines that need to be replaced.

Despite the federal government banning the use of the lead lines in new plumbing systems nearly 40 years ago, many older communities and homes have pipe networks that predate the ban.

According to the EPA, lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels, and children, babies and fetuses are most at risk of being impacted.

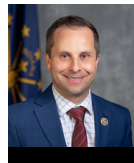
Visit iga.in.gov to learn more about Senate Enrolled Act 5.

Rep. Mark Genda represents House District 41 which includes portions of Montgomery, Clinton, Boone and Tippecanoe counties.

While the state and utility companies continue to work together on lead line replacement, I supported legislation, which was recently signed into law, to help speed up the process and in a cost-effective way. This new law will give us an opportunity to pick up the pace on our transition away from lead water lines. It's critical that we do more to reduce the risk of lead exposure in drinking water, which can cause negative health effects, especially in children.

The law encourages water utility companies

Updates from State Sen. Deery



SPENCER DEERY
Guest Columnist

The Indiana State Fair and Corteva Agriscience announced the 2024 Featured Farmers that will be recognized during the 2024 fair.

Tippecanoe County's 550 Wagyu will be featured on Sunday, Aug. 18.

Featured farmers will participate in a live chat at 2:30 p.m. each day in the Glass Barn.

This year's state fair will take place from Aug. 2-18 and will be closed on Mondays.

Tippecanoe County will be well represented by 550 Wagyu at this year's fair, and I congratulate them for being selected for this year's Featured Farmers program.

Expanding Disaster Relief for Hoosiers

Indiana communities are more likely to experience severe weather this time of year, which can unfortunately lead to damaged homes, schools, businesses and farmland.

As you are likely aware, tornadoes recently

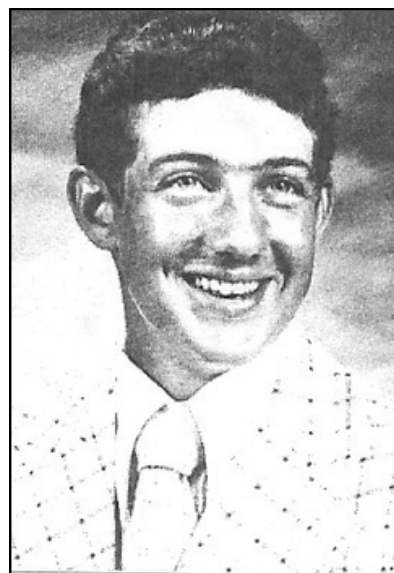
struck communities in East Central and Southeast Indiana, causing heavy damage. Fortunately, there were no deaths thanks to our emergency personnel's quick response, but assessing the damage can be devastating, and navigating the rebuilding process can be difficult.

The state offers financial assistance through the State Disaster Relief Fund to help eligible Hoosiers and local governments recover. To help improve that program, I supported a new law this year to increase the maximum amount of relief funding applicants may receive from \$10,000 to \$25,000.

Hoosiers should never worry about money over their safety after a natural disaster. If you or someone you know was recently impacted by severe weather, please contact Indiana 211 for more information on available resources.

State Sen. Spencer Deery (R-West Lafayette) represents Senate District 23, which includes Fountain, Parke, Vermillion and Warren counties, and portions of Montgomery and Tippecanoe counties.

Butch Dale's Flashback Trivia



Do You Recognize this 1967 Waynetown Grad?

HINT:

He retired as a rural mail carrier and his hobby is collecting baseball cards from the good ol' days!

Answer on Page A4

2024 Boot City Opry Season Opener

Join the fun April 6 at 7 p.m., as Terry Lee Ridley and his Million Dollar Band open the 2024 Boot City Opry season!



It's sure to be a night of killer honky tonkin' classic country, along with hard and fast '50s & '60s Rock and Roll! Combining the eclectic group of his world class musicians, Terry's powerful vocals and lightning-fast piano playing, you are sure to be tapping your toes and dancing in your seat. This is a show you will not want to miss; Terry Lee is an unbeatable presentation of everything that was exciting about the 1950s!

You can get tickets by calling or stopping by the Boot City Opry office, (812) 299-8521 or go online to www.ticketsource.us/boot-city-opry to get yours today!

General admission tickets are \$17, available at the office, Boot City main register area, and at the door night of the show. Reserved tickets are \$22, available in the office or online.

Rokita takes on Big Pharma on behalf of Hoosiers

Attorney General Todd Rokita continues his fight against Big Pharma in a new lawsuit against drug manufacturers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) for inflating insulin prices for hardworking Hoosiers.

Approximately 640,435 Indiana residents have been diagnosed with diabetes and over 1.7 million people are pre-diabetic. It is the leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, and lower limb amputations. It is the seventh leading cause of death in Indiana despite the availability of effective treatment.

"Diabetes is a public

health crisis for Hoosiers," Rokita said. "This is a serious condition that requires insulin, putting patients in the impossible position of choosing between health and financial security."

The lawsuit filed by Rokita includes drug manufacturers Sanofi-Aventis and Novo Nordisk and PBMs CaremarkPCS Health, Express Scripts, CVS Health Corp., and Optum RX for conspiring to raise prices on insulin medications by more than 1000% in the last decade alone despite manufacturing costs decreasing.

"Too many Hoosiers have been forced to ration because drug manufacturers and PBMs have prioritized profits over patients," said Rokita. "Hundreds of thousands of Indiana residents rely on these medications to stay alive and these prices discourage people to take care of their health."

According to the Complaint, every year, the direct medical expenses associated with diabetes care in Indiana are an estimated five billion dollars. If everyone with diabetes could adhere to their medication protocol, over \$8.3 billion in direct medical costs would be saved annually.

"Our office hopes this case will also set a strong precedent for other pharmaceutical companies who want to take advantage of everyday Hoosiers," Rokita said. "Families are suffering enough already with the economic decline. Targeting and scheming against those who have a medical condition like diabetes is absolutely unethical."

This is just one of the many times Rokita's Office has taken on dishonest companies who harm Hoosier patients regularly. Since Rokita took office, he has obtained a \$66.5 million settlement against Centene for their failure to disclose true costs, won a \$573 million multi-state settlement against McKinsey & Company for its role in "turbocharging" the opioid epidemic with Purdue Pharma, and secured nearly \$7 million in an Indiana Medicaid fraud settlement against Mallinckrodt.

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↓ RUSTY From Page A1

retroactive payments (SS will pay up to 6 months retroactively).

If your wife has a “my Social Security” online account, she can also apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply, but she should be sure to request six months of retroactive benefits in the “Remarks” section of the online application. Because your wife is more than six months past age 70, getting 6 months retroactive benefits will not reduce her age 70 benefit amount. Nor will your wife claiming her benefits now negatively affect your Social Security when you later claim. Even though you plan to continue working, likely beyond 70 years of age yourself, you should not wait beyond age 70 to claim for the same reason – your benefit will reach maximum when you are 70. You can apply for your benefits up to 4 months in advance, and specify you want benefits to start in the month you turn 70. If you haven’t already done so, you may wish to create your own “my Social Security” online account now at www.ssa.gov/myaccount, which will make it easier for you to apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply when the time comes next year. Applying online is, by far, the most efficient way, but you need to have

your online account set up first to do so.

Just so you know, there is no need to worry that you won’t get credit for work income earned after you have applied for your benefits. Even after you are collecting benefits, Social Security will automatically review your earnings each year when that info is received from the IRS (after you file your income tax return). If your most recent earnings are higher than those in any of the 35 years of lifetime earnings used to calculate your benefit when you claim, Social Security will automatically increase your monthly payment amount. In other words, you shouldn’t delay past age 70 to claim Social Security because you’re working – you’ll still get credit for those earnings, automatically. So, I suggest that your wife take fast action to apply for her Social Security benefits to avoid losing any more money, and that you plan to apply for your benefits to start when you turn 70. There is no financial advantage to waiting beyond age 70 to claim, even if you continue working.

- Russell Gloor is a National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

↓ FOOT From Page A1

and a Fellow Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS), “It’s important to remember that foot health is an important part of your overall health. You need to take care of your feet, which includes going to the doctor when you have pain, sustain an injury or develop a condition needing professional evaluation and treatment.”

Here are five examples of when you should make an appointment with your foot and ankle surgeon.

1. When you have diabetes: Living with diabetes means being more prone to a variety of conditions that affect the feet, including foot sores and ulcers. At the same time, diabetic nerve damage makes it harder to detect when there’s a problem. Regular visits to a foot and ankle surgeon should be part of your holistic diabetes treatment plan. The doctor can screen for the loss of protective sensations in the feet, as well as diagnose and treat any structural issues leading to ulcers and wounds. Swelling, temperature and color changes in the feet, and calluses, are all telltale signs an ulcer may be around the corner and warrant a trip to a foot and ankle surgeon.

2. When children experience pain: When it comes to pediatric foot problems, early intervention is key to long-term successful treatment. As a parent, you may find distinguishing between growing pains and injuries or deformities difficult. But foot and ankle surgeons stress that pain isn’t normal and if it lasts more than a few days or is severe enough to limit your child’s walking, it should be evaluated. Foot problems commonly experienced by children include flat feet, ingrown toenails, calcaneal apophysitis and plantar warts.

3. When you’re at risk for falling: Falls have become the leading cause of injury deaths

among Americans 65 and older, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the reasons falls occur are numerous, painful foot conditions are a contributing factor, as they make it difficult to maintain balance and coordination. Fortunately, many such conditions are treatable. See a foot and ankle surgeon to alleviate pain and reduce your risk of a life-changing fall.

4. When you can benefit from medical advances: A loss of cartilage once meant a loss of functionality. Today, joint reconstruction surgery with cartilage regeneration offers real hope for long-term functionality, nurturing the body’s own ability to heal itself—with a little boost from technology and a knowledgeable surgeon. Likewise, new surgical techniques for ankle arthritis, including arthroscopic ankle surgery, total ankle joint replacements and bone or cartilage replacement, are helping people stay active. Finally, platelet-rich plasma therapy can promote the healing of bones, cartilage, blood vessels, tendons and tissue for many patients, and is associated with easier recovery than traditional treatments. If you suffer from a foot and ankle ailment, ask your healthcare provider about game-changing medical advances.

5. When pain is sidelining you: It’s important for athletes and fitness enthusiasts to rest and recover rather than push through foot and ankle pain caused by an overuse injury. If the pain doesn’t improve in three to seven days however, it’s time to see a foot and ankle surgeon for evaluation and treatment. With the highest level of education, training and board certification, foot and ankle surgeons are the leaders in surgical and non-surgical foot and ankle care. For more information, or to find a foot and ankle surgeon near you, visit FootHealthFacts.org, the patient education website of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

↓ ACT From Page A1

nonprofit dedicated to inspiring, equipping and mobilizing people to take action that changes the world, shared that 73% of people believe that volunteering is more important than ever, yet 66% think they can’t make a big impact in their communities. During Global Volunteer Month, advocates are trying to change that perception at the local level.

“Volunteers are crucial to solving pressing challenges, creating vibrant communities and strengthening our social fabric,” said Jennifer Sirangelo, president and CEO of Points of Light. “Every person has something to share or give.”

To boost volunteer engagement during Global Volunteer Month, Points of Light is sharing the following ways you and your family can make a positive impact in your neighborhood or town:

Spread the word: Use the Global Volunteer Month toolkit, along with the hashtag [#GlobalVolunteerMonth](https://twitter.com/GlobalVolunteerMonth) to thank volunteers. Be sure to tag a volunteer whose impact you appreciate.

Take the pledge: To show your commitment to volunteering, take Points of Light’s pledge. Then, discover ways to get involved that support your favorite cause and availability using Points of Light Engage, a database featuring hundreds of thousands of volunteer opportunities worldwide, including some in your area. Remember that volunteering doesn’t have to be through a formal organization. Lending a helping hand to a friend, family member or neighbor counts, too. In fact, 70% of volunteer work is carried out locally and informally, without the involvement of any organization, according to the UN.

Expand your impact: Learn about the Points of Light Civic Circle®, a framework that outlines the many forms of civic engagement. These actions include listening and learning, using one’s voice, social entrepreneurship, volunteering, public, national or military service, using one’s

purchasing power to express values, working, voting and donating. Get inspired: Points of Light recognizes ordinary people doing extraordinary things to strengthen communities and solve persistent problems with its Daily Point of Light Award. Know an outstanding volunteer in your community? Nominate them as a Daily Point of Light by visiting pointsoflight.org/dailypointoflight, or to inspire others, share these stories of recent honorees:

Daily Point of Light Award honoree T’Kiyah Threatt is a 21-year-old from Uniontown, Alabama, a town of just over 2,000 residents. She dove into service as a high school junior when she started working with C.H.O.I.C.E., an organization that ensures young people get needed resources. Three years ago, she became the first president of the Youth Advisory Council and began leading mentoring efforts, going above and beyond to find funds for a scholarship for a deserving mentee. Even after moving away for college, Threatt returns to work with her own mentee while recruiting community partners and soliciting funding for programs.

Daily Point of Light Award honoree Teresa Gerald of Ridgeland, Mississippi, channels her passion for literacy into volunteer work through Friends of the Ridgeland Library, where she has held the elected position of president since 2014, contributing thousands of volunteer hours. Twice a year, Gerald manages, promotes and works the Friends of the Ridgeland Library Book Sale. When the library’s funding was cut by \$110,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022, her fundraising efforts with Every Library Institute raised \$112,000 in emergency funds. No matter the scale, Points of Light recognizes the spirit of volunteerism as a driving force of change around the world. “We’re celebrating volunteers around the world all month long, as well as calling on people to take action. Throughout April, lend your time, talent and passion to a cause you care about and invite others to join you, creating a ripple effect of change,” said Sirangelo.

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↓ KAREN From Page A1

Other children of James H. and Annie Jones Goff were: Oliver (Ollie) who was more than a bit hard to find (supposed to be buried where his mother and sister are – Indian Creek Hill, but he’s not in the listing, couldn’t find a death record online nor an obit) but died in 1911 at age 29, just the age of his sister who passed with the same malady, tuberculosis. Middle initial was found as C and H, so not sure which.

Next was our beautiful babe, Iva born June 5, 1884 and married Belford Ansel Jolley 14 December 1905. They were parents of two sons, (Belford) Ross and Carl (Edgar) a little over a year apart. Sadly, they too were fairly young when their mother died. The family had gone two years before to California for Iva’s health, the doctor informing her it was her only hope. The beautiful weather did not help much and thus she passed away on the 3rd of May 1913 lacking a month of being 29. Dan Jolley put a picture of her, husband Belford and their two boys on FindAGrave and she is even more beautiful than ever.

Julia Eveline was born 12 Oct 1887 near Browns Valley and lived past 90. Married Walter Benton Hester (24 Nov 1910) nephew to Frank Wiley above. Walter lived to be over 98 and with her parented Forrest James; Ollie Clarel; Lucille Eveline; Marjorie Ruth; Lanore May. Did see a picture of them, likely at wedding time and she was much more simply dressed, but looked nice, than the sisters and had a large batch of hair (not curly) piled on top of her head. He quite handsome, the son of James Albert and Sarah (Dean) Hester.

Delia was born May 14th in 1886. She married William Daniel Byrd in 1904 and died in Russellville 19 August 1955. Children: Marguerite, Alberta, Pauline, Frances and Paul.

Mary Jane was born November 28th, 1894 quite a long time after her sister. She married Oral Stephen Nelson and they too went to California, but not sure for health or other purposes, going out there in 1912. She died at almost 80, her beautiful black stone

saying, “beloved wife and mother!” Their children were Daphne (b/d 1910); Mary Ethel (died in her 80s) and Dennis Edwin (died age 40).

Besides above, there seems to be a Noah who crops up now and again (1910 Brown Twp MoCo with Frank Wiley and Ethel but I think this might be Dewey who would have been 11 as “Noah” was; however, there were supposed to be eight Goff children born to James and Annie so perhaps they were close or twins or just Dewey – ahhhh, don’t ya’ love the art of family searching – I do – it’s rather scientific really as you make a theory then prove/disapprove that idea! Love it!!

If the above is one of the same, in 1910, he was listed as Frank’s brother-in-law but in 1920, “Dewey” same age level was listed as a “foster son!” Also, at Annie’s death it said she had 8 children, 7 living – this does not fit in with Noah thus they may have lost a child quite young. Now, why couldn’t they have listed those kiddos? Dewey married Ruby Eulala Cox, cut hair at Russellville for many years and fathered three children: Donna, Keith, and Kennard.

After Annie died, James H. stayed here for a couple of years, then went to Chicago, remarried (Mary Higgins 1905) and had Helen, Bernice and James Theodore. No one really knows why he went to Chicago, perhaps to make money to send home to help with the other children (some already married and on their own but still some not so), his first job a taxi driver. Next he tried farming with his second family in Michigan and ended-up as a carpenter. He never returned here to stay even being buried in Chicago.

Thus, you have read about our beauties and some of their families. Hope ya’ enjoyed!

– Karen Zach is the editor of *Montgomery Memories*, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, *Around the County*, appears each Friday in *The Paper of Montgomery County*. You can reach her at karen.zach@sbglobal.net.

Braun, Others Lead Charge to Protect Social Security

U.S. Sens. Mike Braun (R-IN), Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), and Joe Manchin (D-WV) have introduced the Save Our Seniors Act, which would help protect the long-term solvency of Social Security by requiring the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to include the honest projection of its financial health in its annual ten-year economic outlook.

“Every American needs to know the facts about our nation’s dire financial situation. Social Security trust fund is on the way to going bust, and if we’re going to protect Social Security for seniors who rely on it we can’t bury our heads in the sand.” – Senator Mike Braun

“In eight years Social Security trust fund will be broke. The American people deserve to know this. The Save Our Seniors Act puts a spotlight on something that every Social Security recipient now, or in the future, has the right to know.” – Senator Bill Cassidy


“I am committed to protecting our seniors by making good on the

promises we’ve made to them, and our bipartisan Save Our Seniors Act is proof of that. Transparency is vital when it comes to the future of Social Security, and our legislation prioritizes the long-term solvency of the program while also highlighting critical information on its fiscal stability. I’m proud to introduce this commonsense bill with Senators Cassidy and Braun and I will continue working to get it across the finish line.” – Senator Joe Manchin

The Save Our Seniors Act would ensure that a simple and easy-to-understand graph depicting the actual outlook for the Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) Trust Fund is included in the CBO’s ten-year economic outlook. Similar graphs exist in other Social Security related reports, like the Trustees Reports, but not in a document as widely viewed as the CBO’s outlook, which is used by members of Congress and economists to get a detailed look at the health of our nation’s economy and the federal budget.

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Indiana Provides Educators Opportunity to Earn Literacy Endorsement

The Indiana Department of Education recently announced that eligible educators can now enroll in a free professional development course designed to help them earn Indiana’s Literacy Endorsement. Eligible educators will receive up to \$1,200 in stipends for completion of the course.

“For the first time ever, Indiana educators can add a literacy endorsement to their existing license, and the state has provided a way for educators to earn this distinction free of charge while also earning a stipend for their time spent completing the course,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “The literacy endorsement, created by state law in 2023, provides educators with tools focused on evidence-based instruction rooted in science of reading, ensuring more students across the state gain essential literacy skills necessary for future success.”

This course, tailored specifically for Indiana educators, is certified by the International Dyslexia Association and is aligned to Indiana Academic Standards and science of reading. By participating, educators will continue to improve upon existing knowledge allowing for enhanced instructional practices in the fundamental elements of early reading and writing.

Indiana educators who hold an active Pre-K through grade six or special education license are invited to enroll in the newly-developed course, offered by Keys to Literacy. The free course will be available through June 2025. The program’s instructional practices are designed to seamlessly integrate into classroom lessons with any curriculum or published literacy program.

Funding is allocated in the state’s biennial budget to allow educators to enroll in the 80-hour course, participate in the Praxis licensing exam, and, ultimately, earn the Indiana Literacy Endorsement. Following completion of the exam, beginning in August 2024, educators can apply to add the literacy endorsement to their license. Additional information will be available this spring for educators who have completed the necessary 80-hour professional development on science of reading through a different provider.

To support schools and educators, as well as parents and families in preparing students with foundational reading skills, Indiana continues to make historic investments in literacy, totaling over \$170 million. Below are examples of how this investment continues to

positively impact students –

- Launched a new data visualization tool with key literacy data to empower educators, parents and families, community leaders and policymakers with the information needed to continue improving state and local literacy rates.
- Increased school-level science of reading instructional coaching and support for educators through the Indiana Literacy Cadre. Participation in 2023 grew nearly five-fold, with 199 total schools opting into cohorts one and two.
- Provided over 105,000 hours of learning support and tutoring services to over 20,000 students through Indiana Learns, regardless of a family’s ability to pay.
- Grew the Indiana Learning Lab from 6,000 users in 2021 to over 62,000 users just two years later, including launching the Parent and Family Support Hub, which provides no cost, 24/7 access to resources for parents and families to support their student’s learning.
- Developed online professional development modules supporting Indiana educators with additional science of reading training. Nearly 6,000 educators have signed up to participate, with 1,200 already completed. Eligible teachers receive a \$1,200 stipend upon completion.
- Expanded the number of schools opting-in to administer the state’s IREAD assessment for second grade students to 1,099 schools. This allows teachers, parents and families to immediately know if a child is on-track or at-risk when it comes to mastering foundational literacy skills.
- Awarded the Expanding What Works grant to four regional partners serving over 3,000 students to increase access to high-quality summer programming providing supplemental literacy and math instruction using evidence-based strategies.
- Provided \$10 million in cash stipends to teachers, instructional coaches and other school staff at all corporations and charter schools who are responsible for the implementation and delivery of early literacy and reading instruction through the Literacy Achievement Grants.
- Increased the implementation of evidence-based instructional practices for over 65,000 students across Indiana through the Competitive Science of Reading grant, which awarded nearly \$15 million to 72 school corporations. This is in addition to the multiple other initiatives supporting science of reading.

Butch Dale’s Flashback Trivia

**Answer:
Larry Rush**

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"He is not here; He has risen! Remember how He told you while He was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and, on the third day, be raised again.'" Luke 24:6-7

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Open Prayer 4:30-7 PM**

**Good Friday Tenebrae Cover
Of Darkness Service 6:30 PM**

**Resurrection Sunday Service
10:30 AM**

He is Risen!

Matt Painter straight up and candid in press conference



KENNY THOMPSON
Columnist

For a couple of minutes Sunday afternoon, Matt Painter sounded a lot like the coach he

grew up idolizing in Muncie.

The Purdue men's basketball coach was asked this question minutes after the Boilermakers dominated Utah State 106-67 at Gainbridge Fieldhouse:

"Matt, Zach (Edey) finishes with 54 points and 35 rebounds in two games here in Indianapolis. You see people around the country, even fans, but even people that cover the game say he's just tall. What would you say to the people that say that and are only looking at the size and not just the game?"

Now picture Indiana coach Bob Knight at his peak in the 1980s, who wasn't a big fan of media members not named Bob Hammel, answering that question. It may have sounded something like Painter's response.

"Yeah, they just shouldn't cover basketball," Painter says to a laughing response.

"So like you go to school and you learn things or whatever, but we all don't like every single class we're in. It's kind of a necessary evil. It's like going to work. Like you don't like everybody you work with or you don't like certain parts of your job, and it's tough. You've got to be able to deal with certain things that are difficult.

"I just think everybody should take tests on their knowledge of what they're doing. I think all coaches should take a test so they understand refereeing, and I think all referees should take a test so they understand coaching, and I think all

journalists should have to take a basketball quiz or test or anybody that tweets, they should have to be able to do it. If they say something so moronic as that, they should have to have a probationary status where they can't tweet for like three months.

"I think it'll help society. Just try to knock out the fools, so they don't have to meet at the local Walmart and say things that don't make any sense," Painter concludes to more laughter.

(Full disclosure: Among the final courses I took before earning my bachelor's degree from Purdue in 1983 was a basketball coaching class taught by then-Gene Keady assistants Tony Branch and Paul Curtis. Some Montgomery County basketball fans will remember Curtis as Crawfordsville High School coach for 12 seasons. Curtis won 169 games and lost 111 to go with six sectional championships and a regional title in 1979.)

Edey is the first player since another tall man, 7-2 Lew Alcindor (a.k.a. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar) in 1968, to have at least 50 points, 35 rebounds and shoot 65 percent from the field in the first two NCAA Tournament games.

So, does being tall automatically translate to being a great basketball player?

Let's take Purdue's history from the first 7-footer to suit up as a Boilermaker in 1964, George Grams, to 7-2 redshirt freshman Will Berg today.

Grams played 39 games over two seasons. He averaged 4.8 points and 4.7 rebounds but still managed to be drafted in the 11th round by the Los Angeles Lakers in

1966.

Chuck Bavis, a 7-footer from Garrett, Ind., was the starting center on the 1969 national runner-up team and more than held his own in matchups with UCLA great Alcindor. A car accident ended his Purdue career a year early.

St. Louis native Dan McDermott played just 31 games between 1974-1978. The 7-foot, 240-pound McDermott averaged exactly one point a game playing behind John Garrett, Tom Scheffler and the next man on our list.

The best big man in Purdue history until Edey came along, 7-1 Joe Barry Carroll, led the Boilermakers to the 1980 Final Four. The All-American scored 2,175 points and grabbed a then-record 1,148 rebounds before becoming the No. 1 overall NBA Draft pick of the Golden State Warriors.

Never really recovering from a knee injury in high school, 7-foot Joe Gampfer still managed to play 51 games over three seasons from 1982-84 as the backup to All-Big Ten centers Russell Cross and Jim Rowinski.

Matt ten Dam was easily the largest (7-2, 285 pounds) artist in West Lafayette during his 32-game career from 1995-97. He likely drew more sketches than points scored (17) for the Boilermakers.

A.J. Hammons began Painter's strategy of recruiting 7-foot centers in 2013. Briefly a student at Carmel, Hammons started almost from Day 1 at Purdue in 2013 and averaged double figure scoring in all four seasons. Hammons averaged 15 points and 8.2 rebounds as a senior in 2016 to finish with

career totals of 1,593 points and 930 rebounds.

Isaac Haas continued Painter's run of highly productive 7-footers, scoring 1,555 career points along with 643 rebounds. The 7-2 Alabama native's broken elbow likely prevented Purdue from reaching the Elite Eight in 2018.

Matt Haarms, the 7-3 import from The Netherlands, started 41 games during his three seasons under Painter from 2018-2020. His highest scoring/rebounding averages were 9.4/5.4 during the 2019 Elite Eight season. Transferring to BYU for his senior season, Haarms managed to average 11.3 points while earning West Coast Conference Defensive Player of the Year honors.

A Stockholm, Sweden native, Berg has played 55 minutes over 14 games this season with 37 points and 26 rebounds.

Purdue's 7-foot streak will continue in 2024-25 with the addition of 7-3 Daniel Jacobsen of Chicago via Brewster Academy. The Boilermakers won the services of the No. 94 prospect in On3.com rankings over Wisconsin, Creighton, Iowa, Minnesota, Clemson and Xavier.

Strange but true
It's possible fans could see a repeat of the Boilermakers' path to the Maui Invitational championship during the next two weekends.

Purdue improved to 4-0 all-time against Sweet 16 foe Gonzaga with a 73-63 victory in the Maui opener. A possible Midwest Region final would be a rematch with Tennessee, a Maui foul fest (51 called resulting in 78 free throws taken)

that Purdue won 71-67.

Should the Boilermakers advance to the Final Four, second-seeded Marquette could be the opponent if the Golden Eagles defeat North Carolina State and either top-seeded Houston or Duke in the South Region. Purdue outlasted Marquette 78-75 in the Maui title game behind 28 points and 15 rebounds from Edey and 18 points from Braden Smith.

Purdue's history against Gonzaga includes a 75-66 triumph in the 2000 Sweet 16 at Albuquerque, N.M. Gene Keady's final Elite Eight run at Purdue began in Tuscon, Ariz. with victories over Dayton (62-61) and Kelvin Sampson-coached Oklahoma (66-62). This year's Final Four is being played in Glendale, Ariz., a two-hour drive from Tucson.

By the numbers
The victory against No. 20 Utah State was third-ranked Purdue's 31st, a school record for a single season. The 106 points also are a school record for an NCAA Tournament game.

The Boilermakers are 8-0 this season against nationally ranked teams, winning by an average of 10.1 points a game. Despite the negativity from the national media during the past several days, Purdue reached the Sweet 16 for the fifth time in seven seasons. Only No. 16 Gonzaga (7) has been better.

One more thing
Purdue is 7-0 against the Sweet 16 field during the 2023-24 season with only one victory coming in Mackey Arena. That was an 83-78 win against Illinois on Jan. 5.

In addition to the Maui Invitational run, the Boilermakers own victories over Alabama



Matt Painter



Zach Edey

(92-86) at Toronto on Dec. 9, then-No. 1 Arizona (92-84) at Indianapolis on Dec. 16 and at Illinois (77-71) on March 5.

The Boilermakers are 23-25 all-time against the remaining NCAA Tournament field (North Carolina 3-8, Houston 2-1, Connecticut 4-1, Iowa State 3-2, Creighton 1-0, Clemson 2-4, Duke 5-3, North Carolina State 2-4 and San Diego State 1-2).

Kenny Thompson is the former sports editor for the Lafayette Journal & Courier and an award-winning journalist. He has covered Purdue athletics for many years.



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